

Senate, April 7, 1998. The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WILLIAMS, 29th DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-12 of
2 the general statutes is repealed and the following
3 is substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (a) No motor vehicle shall be operated or
5 towed on any highway, except as otherwise
6 expressly provided, unless it is registered with
7 the commissioner, provided any motor vehicle may
8 be towed for repairs or necessary work if it bears
9 the markers of a licensed and registered dealer,
10 manufacturer or [repairman] REPAIRER and provided
11 any motor vehicle which is validly registered in
12 another state may, for a period of sixty days
13 following establishment by the owner of residence
14 in this state, be operated on any highway without
15 first being registered with the commissioner.
16 Except as otherwise provided in this subsection
17 [,] (1) a person commits an infraction if he
18 registers a motor vehicle he does not own or if he
19 operates, or allows the operation of, an
20 unregistered motor vehicle on a public highway OR
21 (2) A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE WHO OPERATES A MOTOR
22 VEHICLE HE OWNS WITH MARKER PLATES ISSUED BY

23 ANOTHER STATE SHALL BE FINED NOT LESS THAN ONE
24 HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS NOR MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED
25 DOLLARS. If the owner of a motor vehicle
26 previously registered on an annual OR BIENNIAL
27 basis, the registration of which expired not more
28 than thirty days previously, operates or allows
29 the operation of such a motor vehicle, he shall be
30 fined the amount designated for the infraction of
31 failure to renew a registration, but his right to
32 retain his operator's license shall not be
33 affected. No operator other than the owner shall
34 be subject to penalty for the operation of such a
35 previously registered motor vehicle.

36 Sec. 2. Subsection (f) of section 14-12a of
37 the general statutes is repealed and the following
38 is substituted in lieu thereof:

39 (f) [Failure to register any motor vehicle
40 required to be registered by this section shall be
41 an infraction] A PERSON FAILING TO REGISTER A
42 MOTOR VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION
43 SHALL BE FINED NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY
44 DOLLARS NOR MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

45 TRA COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 23 NAY 0 JF C/R JUD
46 JUD COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 39 NAY 0 JFS

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 421

STATE IMPACT	Potential Revenue Gain, (Transportation and Emissions Funds), see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	Potential Revenue Gain, see explanation below
STATE AGENCY(S)	Department of Motor Vehicles, Criminal Justice Agencies

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE AND MUNICIPAL IMPACT: The bill's provisions concerning additional criminal penalties would result in increased pressures on the criminal justice system, especially for prosecution staff. Over the long term, these pressures would lead to a need for increased criminal justice resources. The bill could also result in a revenue gain from increased fines.

In 1997, the Judicial Department recorded the following activity under current law:

<u>Statute</u>	<u>Offenses</u>	<u>Fines Collected</u>
14-12(a)	17,513	1,673,342
14-12a	271	22,525

It is anticipated that passage of this bill could bring more Connecticut residents operating motor vehicles with out-of-state registrations into compliance. Thus, increasing the number of registrations, emissions inspections and safety inspections conducted by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The potential

revenue gain to the Transportation and the Emissions Enterprise Fund as the result of this action is at present indeterminate. The additional activity will be handled by the DMV within normal budgetary resources.

If, indeed more Connecticut residents are brought into compliance, more municipalities will have access to uncollected motor vehicle property taxes.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

SSB 421

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR NONCOMPLIANCE WITH MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

SUMMARY: This bill increases the penalty, from an infraction to a fine of \$150 to \$300, for a Connecticut resident who operates a motor vehicle he owns with an out-of-state registration in violation of Connecticut's registration requirements. By law, someone has 60 days from the time he takes up residence in Connecticut to change his out-of-state registration to a Connecticut registration.

The bill makes a similar change for vehicles eligible for commercial registrations that are subject to Connecticut registration requirements, and not otherwise exempt under reciprocal registration agreements with other states, when they (1) are most frequently garaged in, or most frequently leave from and return to points in, Connecticut during normal operations or (2) receive and discharge the same cargo or passengers within Connecticut.

The current total of fine, fees, and surcharge for these infractions is \$78.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 23 Nay 0

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 39 Nay 0